

Mabelle Gilman, STAGE BEAUTY WHO FASCINATED A STEEL KING



ACCORDING to recent reports, the Corey-Gilman wedding is to take place shortly in Paris. This means that William Ellis Corey, president of the United States Steel corporation, whose wife obtained a divorce a few months ago, is going to marry Miss Mabelle Gilman, a former actress and singer. Should the marriage take place the long expected will happen, and the event will mark the culmination of a modern marital affair that has furnished a great deal of sensational though not highly edifying reading matter.

The public is interested in this affair chiefly because of the contrasted and financial prominence of W. E. Corey. Aside from that, the story would be little more than commonplace. It is Corey's money and his high place in the commercial world, contrasted with his former humble position and his earlier domestic ideas, that give a touch of the dramatic to the tale.

Three years ago a new figure arose above the business horizon and became widely visible. It was Corey—Bill Corey of Homestead, W. E. Corey of Pittsburgh, Mr. Corey of 71 Broadway, New York, president of the steel trust. He was only thirty-seven then and had just succeeded Charles M. Schwab in that position. Mr. Schwab had been acting a little unconventionally. He had gambled at Monte Carlo for one thing. The great Carnegie corporation requires a more conservative man at

its head, so it was understood, and Corey was put there.

"He has a level head," said Mr. Carnegie himself, "and nothing will ever turn it—not even a woman."

For a year or so Mr. Corey's career was held up to the American youth as a model for copying. All those persons who make a business of preaching "Success" with a double perpendicular bar drawn through the initial letter, had drawn through the initial letter, made much capital of Mr. Corey, who had made a good deal of capital for himself.

"Here is a young man," they said, "who has succeeded. Look at him—only thirty-seven and head of the biggest corporation on earth, controlling two billions of capital and handling 165,000 workmen! And think how he started—right at the bottom; worked his own way up; began as a laborer, wheelbarrowing iron ore, and handled three times as much ore as any other man so they made him foreman. Then his rise was rapid."

Even preachers preached about Mr. Corey's success and preached of him as a model. For months he was thus lauded and blared into prominence as an exemplar. Some of the newspaper

stories ended with the simple statement that "Mr. Corey has a wife and three children."

Then something happened, and the world knew more about Mr. Corey's wife. She went away out to Reno, Nev., where divorce grows on cactus thorns if you stay there a year, and filed suit for divorce. Prior to this, however, there was much public discussion of Mrs. Corey's proposed suit. The name of Miss Mabelle Gilman, a stage woman, was brought into the story. It was said that Corey had become infatuated with Miss Gilman and that was the occasion of the divorce suit. Then it was said that the affair had been patched up and smoothed over and that the Coreys were reconciled. The story ran the full gamut of speculation and conjecture.

After all, Mrs. Corey did file the suit, and she obtained a decree of divorce. Deserion was the ground offered in evidence. The Gilman affair did not figure officially in court.

With Mrs. Corey at Reno was Miss

Ada Corey, sister of her husband. She sympathized with Mrs. Corey and took her part. Corey's father also took sides with the wife. Corey's uncle, J. B. Corey, who gave the young man his first job, as a coal dumper, had pleaded with the steel trust head to return to his wife and avoid further talk. Corey's father did not hesitate to disagree with Andrew Carnegie—after the test.

"The boy's head is turned," the father was quoted as saying. "He got rich too fast, and this is the result." Then the spellers of success with a dollar mark initial changed their tune, or, rather, they quit piping altogether. Where but a few short months before had swelled the resonant chorus of Corey adulation was now a vast silence, so impressive that you could almost hear it. But the pecking daws got to work. They invaded Homestead and Pittsburgh and interviewed men and women and children. Then came the homey little story of Corey's courtship and marriage.

Corey was seventeen and his uncle

was paying him \$5 a week for dumping coal. It was a smutty sort of job, and the boy didn't fancy it—in fact, he felt that it was beneath his dignity. But he did fancy Laura Cook, one of the pretty girls of Braddock, the town where he lived. She, too, was seventeen. The boy and girl got married and set up housekeeping in a little cottage. Corey soon found another job more to his liking, for it gave him a chance to study chemistry and metallurgy. Babies came, and the Corey cottage no doubt was a happy little home. Corey was now in the Carnegie establishment, and on the rise. His wife's father left her some money, with which they bought a home. Corey paid attention to his work, and one day he discovered or invented the new famous Carnegie re-rolled process for steel armor plate, revolutionizing the business of plating warships. It made possible a thinner and lighter plate without decreasing the strength or the resisting force.

Corey became foreman of the plate mill, then head of the Homestead works and finally reached high water mark at 71 Broadway. In the meantime, of course, he had become several times a millionaire. His home at Homestead was the finest building there save the Carnegie library. Then he removed to Pittsburgh and occupied a still finer mansion.

Five years ago Mabelle Gilman went to Pittsburgh to sing and act in "The Mocking Bird," that dainty little musical drama of old French life in Louisiana, in which she made her great

hit on the American and European stage. One night after the theater there was a swimming party of Pittsburgh steel magnates and actresses at a natatorium. Corey and Mabelle Gilman, it is said, were among those present.

Miss Gilman is now twenty-seven years old. She came from California. She seems to have leaped smack out of the high school and the beribboned diploma into the footlight area. She could sing, and she was pretty; also she could act some. The singing and the prettiness assured her success as a comic opera star. It was not long before she blazed forth resplendently. For one thing, Miss Gilman had a remarkably good press agent. Good looks, a good voice and a good press agent are the trinity necessary to the success of a soubrette or singer.

As to the press agent, witness the publication of sundry love letters and much doggerel verse addressed, or supposed to have been addressed, to Miss Gilman by the crown prince of Siam, named Maha Vajiravudh, a diminutive, dapper, negro looking youth who was at college in England and who came to America five years ago. It was currently reported that the prince had proposed marriage to Miss Gilman, which she did not deny. That was excellent press agent material.

In New York at one time Miss Gilman appeared on the stage with diamonds set in her thumb nails. She lost one of these diamonds, and that was more good press agent stuff. It was

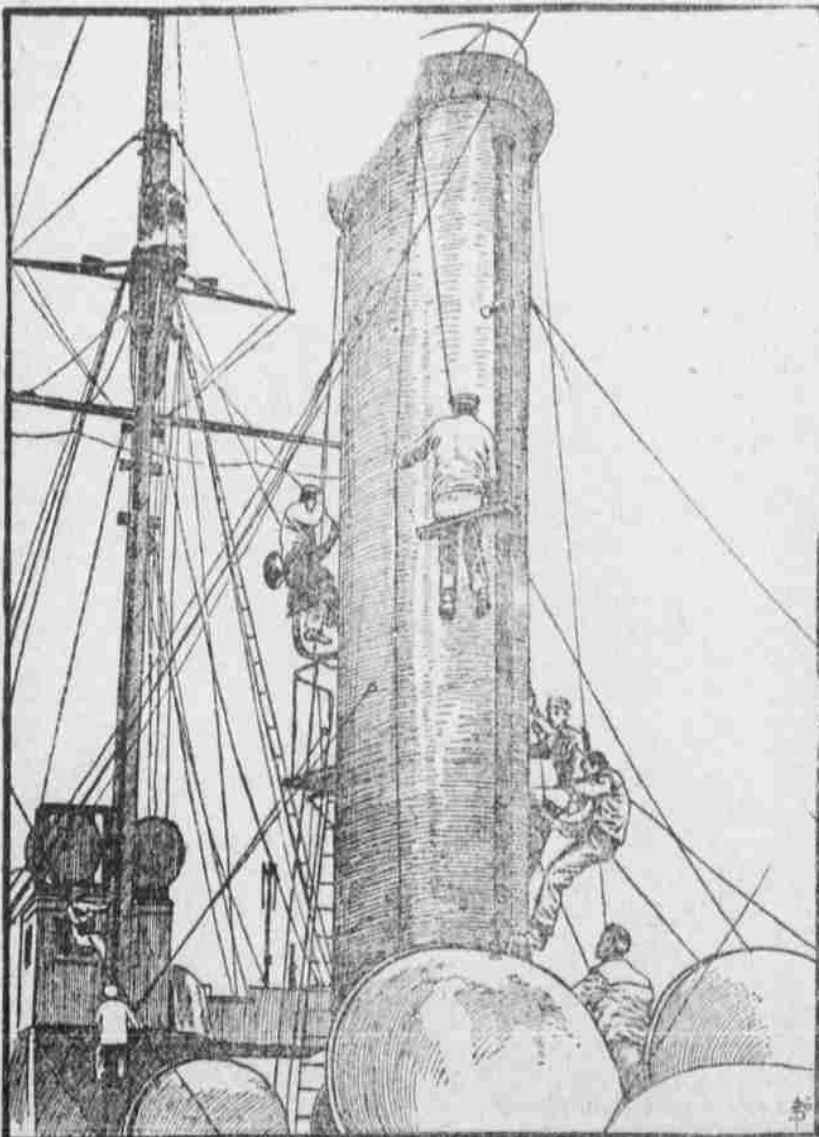
something novel for an actress to lose a diamond out of a pink thumb nail setting.

After the Corey-Gilman stories, which set forth the steel man's infatuation for the actress, Miss Gilman retired to France and took singing lessons under one of the De Russkas.

The directors of the United States Steel corporation, it is understood, took President Corey to task. Andrew Carnegie is said to have taken the young man aside and given him half an hour's fatherly admonition. Those who had congratulated the steel trust on getting a president more level headed than Schwab smiled sickly smiles. For a long time there was a general belief that Corey would have to resign the presidency of the steel trust, by invitation, and some authorities went so far as to name his successor.

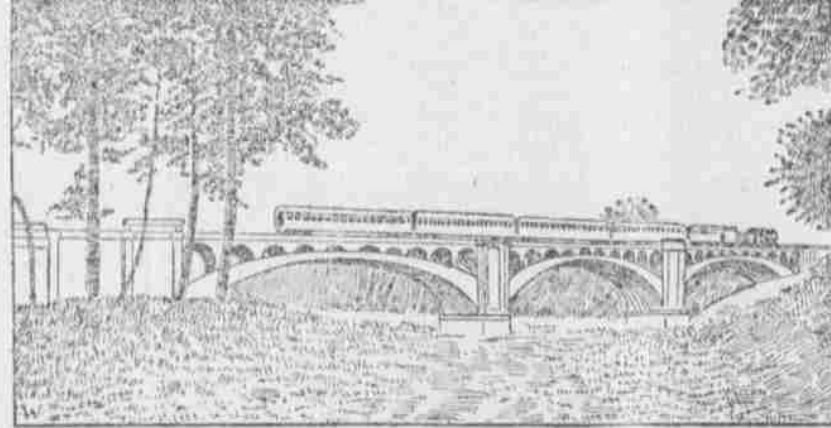
Two facts, however, seem to be patent—Mr. Corey is still president of the United States Steel corporation, and he is going to marry Mabelle Gilman. It reports can be credited. ROBERT DONNELL.

CLEANING THE FUNNEL OF A FAST CRUISER.



The picture shows an operation which goes on quite frequently on board ship, especially in the navy, where it is considered the proper thing to keep the men employed as much as possible. As soon as the exposed surfaces of a vessel are covered properly with paint it is scraped off and the process is repeated. Thus it is that Uncle Sam's bill for white lead and linseed oil amounts to a very large sum every year.

THE LARGEST CONCRETE BRIDGE IN THE WORLD.



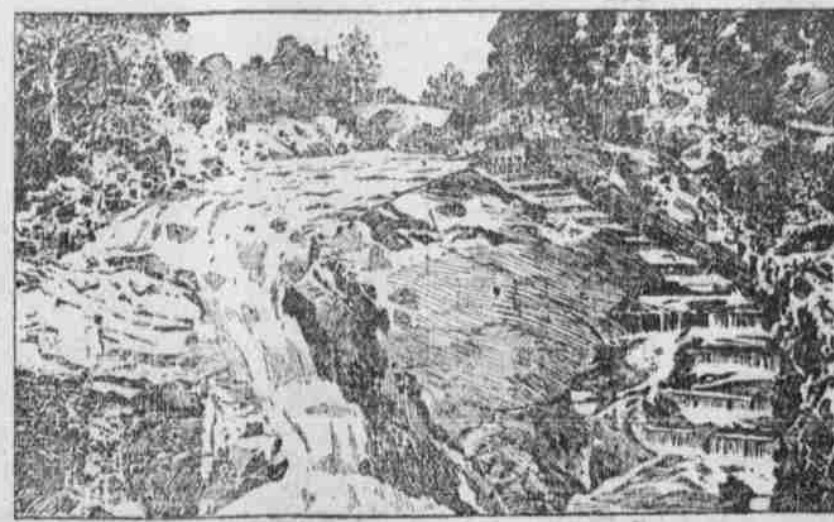
The bridge shown in the cut is across the Big Muddy river in Illinois and is the largest bridge, with the biggest arches, ever built of concrete. The Illinois Central railroad constructed it, and it is double track. It is 575 feet in length and contains 12,000 cubic yards of concrete and 150 tons of steel.

UGLIEST FISH IN THE WORLD.



The repulsive object shown in the cut is the head of what is known as the oodish and is found in the waters off the coast of New Zealand.

A SALMON LADDER IN SCOTLAND.



Salmon culture is carried on in a thoroughly scientific manner in Scotland and most gratifying results are obtained. The picture shows a salmon ladder in a Sutherlandshire river. The ascent of many of the Scotch streams has been made so difficult by weirs that these ladders are constructed so that the fish may get to their spawning ground. A salmon can leap six or eight feet and can thus make its way up the river.

VERY LIKE AN ELEPHANT.

One of the most wonderful vegetable freaks of the season is shown in the accompanying cut. It is a daffodil bulb



raised by an amateur florist and is as perfect a figure of an elephant as if it were carved with that intent.

STREETS THAT ARE CARPETED.



The cut was made from a photograph taken at Crotina, on the island of Tenerife, one of the Canary group. The religious festival of Corpus Christi is celebrated with great pomp, and the procession passes over floral carpets which cover the streets on the route. Wagon loads of fresh blossoms are used, and beautiful tapestry designs are imitated with great skill.